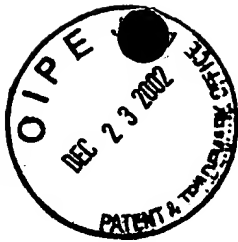


03500.015675



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

OSAMU TSUJII, et al.

Application No.: 09/923,422

Filed: August 8, 2001

For: IMAGE SENSING
APPARATUS

Examiner: Brian C. Genco

Group Art Unit: 2615

December 16, 2002

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DEC 30 2002

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 14, 2002 (Paper No. 2), the period for response to which having been extended to Monday, December 16, 2002 by the accompanying Petition For Extension Of Time with fee. Claims 1 to 15 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 12, 14 and 15 are the independent claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for observing the discrepancy in priority dates for JP application No. 2000-245192. As requested a revised "Application Data Sheet" accompanies this response. It is noted, however, that both the filing receipt and the application as published both bear the correct priority date of August 11, 2000.

Accordingly, the enclosed "Application Data Sheet" might not be needed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on Dec 16, 2002
(Date of Deposit)

Michael X. O'Neill

Name of Attorney for Applicant

Signature

Date of Signature

The Office Action indicated that the Patent Office had not received certified copies of the two JP applications from which this case claims priority. In fact, both certified copies were filed November 5, 2001, as shown in the enclosed copy of a Claim To Priority. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copies is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 10, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. 2001/0028392 A1 (Yamamoto). Additionally, Claims 5 to 9, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamamoto. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention as recited by independent Claims 1 and 12 concerns an image sensing apparatus using a sensor region, which includes a plurality of pixels for detecting an object image, a read-out circuit adapted to sequentially read out signals from the plurality of pixels into a common output portion, and a power supply unit adapted to supply electric power to the sensor region and to said read-out circuit, independently.

The invention as recited by independent Claims 14 and 15 concerns a method of controlling an image sensing apparatus itself comprising a sensor region and a read-out circuit for sequentially reading out signals from the plurality of photoelectric conversion elements into a common output portion, comprising supplying electric power to the sensor region and the read-out circuit independently.

Thus, according to one feature of the invention, electric power is supplied to the sensor region and the read-out circuit, independently.

Yamamoto is not seen to teach or suggest at least this feature, where power supply to the sensor region and the read-out circuit occurs independently. According to Yamamoto, the power circuit 21 supplies power source voltages to circuits at all times

when the mode signal indicates a normal mode. See paragraph [0100]. However, Yamamoto is not seen to supply electric power to the sensor region and the read-out circuit, independently.

In any event, Yamamoto is not prior art by virtue of the earlier filing date of the Japanese priority application from which the subject application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. In accordance with MPEP § 201.15, submitted herewith is a sworn translation of Japanese priority application JP 2000-245192, filed August 11, 2000. In keeping with the procedure under MPEP § 201.15, the Examiner should confirm for himself that Applicant is entitled to his priority date for the claimed subject matter. Once the Examiner is convinced that Applicant is entitled to this date, he is respectfully requested to withdraw Yamamoto as a reference against the pending claims. For completeness, a sworn translation of JP 2001-235052, filed August 2, 2001, is also enclosed.

Regarding a formal matter, the Examiner is requested to indicate his consideration of the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated March 21, 2002. An additional copy of the Form PTO-1449 attached thereto is enclosed for convenience.

No other matters being raised in the Office Action, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

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